

Thanksgiving Day Proclamation

Thursday 29 November 2012 marks the 223d anniversary since President George Washington's original Thanksgiving Day proclamation. Today we reflect on such a bountiful history our nation has enjoyed since its inception. President Washington proclaimed in our first Thanksgiving that Americans observe a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to acknowledge the providence and favor of Almighty God. He gave praise to a God who had guided the young nation through perilous times. Later, President Abraham Lincoln in his Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1863 called upon a nation in the midst of a civil war to "observe a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens."

Drawing upon this rich heritage, let us continue to give thanks to God for the many blessings and comforts we enjoy as Americans. As you gather for your Thanksgiving traditions I ask you to remember all of those who are deployed from our nation and our Division. I would also encourage you to ensure that no Soldier spends this day alone when they have an entire Division as family.

Finally, we as Americans have enjoyed great prosperity and freedom not known in many regions of the world, yet it has come with great sacrifice. Many of you have sacrificed greatly in this current war, as have your families. Command Sergeant Major Devens and I want to personally thank each of you and your families for their devoted service to this country.

Happy Thanksgiving and may God bless all of you!

Tropic Lighting!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, looping 'R' and 'D'.

RAY A. DEVENS Jr.
Command Sergeant Major, US Army
Division Command Sergeant Major

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kurt Fuller' in a cursive style.

KURT FULLER
Major General, US Army
Commanding General